

York is protected as Adirondack State Park where much of the forest is mature and does not have the understory necessary to support a snowshoe hare population capable of sustaining lynx.

(4) Both of these areas are a relatively long distance and naturally more isolated from other lynx populations, substantially reducing the potential for lynx from northern populations to augment or colonize these areas or, alternatively, reducing the ability of lynx from these areas to have augmented or colonized other lynx habitats. Therefore the contribution of these areas to the persistence of lynx in

the contiguous United States is presumably minimal.

We conclude that the contiguous United States DPS of the lynx is not in danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of its range within the Northeast, Great Lakes, or Southern Rockies and therefore does not warrant reclassification to "endangered" status in all or a significant portion of its range within these areas. As a result the Canada lynx will remain listed as threatened in Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein, as well as others, is available upon request from the Montana Field Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Author

The author of this document is Lori Nordstrom, Montana Field Office, Helena, Montana.

Dated: June 24, 2003.

Steve Williams,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-16664 Filed 7-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P